



# LOWREY MAJESTY KEYBOARD CONTACT CLEANING SUGGESTIONS



By the Old Houseboater

It is common for Lowrey organs to experience a dead note or inconsistent dynamic keying performance note to note. If this condition is limited to individual notes and not the same note in all octaves, the reason is usually dirty key contacts. In the case of a dead note, rapidly actuate the note up to a thousand times (not kidding) and it will sometimes clear. The dynamic keying problem will usually not improve by repeated note actuation. The cure is to clean the keyboard contact surfaces. This is not a problem limited to Lowrey's. I have been buying and selling organs for 45 years. Over 90% of organ problems that I have experienced have been due to dirty contacts and connections. Lowrey WAS KIND ENOUGH to give me information on what has to be moved/removed to get the keyboards off a Majesty. The rest of the hints are from my experience and are NOT to be construed as CORRECT or APPROPRIATE. They are my methods and you use them at your own risk.

*(Pictures starting on Page 3)*

1. Get the organ in a position where you can work on it all the way around.
2. Unplug the organ and remove the back.
3. TOUCH A HEAVY METAL PART INSIDE THE ORGAN TO BLEED ANY STATIC ELECTRICITY YOU MAY HAVE IN YOUR BODY. DO NOT WEAR LEATHER BOTTOM SHOES OR SILK STOCKINGS. AVOID SLIDING YOUR FEET ACROSS THE CARPET.
4. Remove the 2 keepers from each side of the cabinet and take out the roll top.
5. If you want to verify your problem remove the cover off the large electronic board and swap the connectors coming from the keyboards in the back of this board. Plug the organ in and see if your problem swapped manuals. If it did, proceed. IF IT DIDN'T, UNPLUG THE ORGAN - PUT EVERYTHING BACK THE WAY IT WAS AND CALL A SERVICE MAN.
6. Unplug the organ and remove the screws on both sides of the brackets that secure the front panel. This assembly slides on rails.
7. **STOP AND READ THIS 3 TIMES!!!**  
Take a GOOD look and see which wires will move when you move this assembly toward the back of the organ. Cut the tie-wraps on these wires and move the assembly back a little at a time. You will have to UNPLUG ONE LARGE RIBBON CABLE COMING FROM THE DISK DRIVE the rest can be left connected. Continue to check for interferences and move the assembly back until the cheek blocks on the front of the organ are exposed and the keyboard retainer screws can be removed.
8. Remove the cheek blocks by removing the retainer screws from each, underneath the organ. These are a b\*\*\*h to access so make sure you have a good flashlight.
9. LISTEN UP. LISTEN UP LISTEN UP.  
After you have the blocks removed take a look on the left hand side of the organ at the wiring. This wiring needs NOT to be disturbed. The FX on these organs is very sensitive and if its working good disturbing the routing of this wiring may make it go "APE."  
(I have no idea why?)

10. You do not have to remove the disk drive. However, you will have to unplug 2 connectors and remove the weird ribbon cable retainer.
11. If you want to remove the lower keyboard repeat the above steps.
12. Remove the keyboard retaining screws from each end STOP STOP STOP. You will not be able to get the whole assembly out of the organ without scratching the case. SO turn the assembly over and remove the 5 or 6 screws securing the keyboard to the mounting board, unhook the wire lead and take off the key assembly. Be careful not to damage the circuit boards behind this area while doing performing this step.

You will need a pair of pliers, a single edge razorblade, a Phillips screw driver, a LARGE paperclip bent into an "L" shape a can of TV contact cleaner or automotive electrical connection cleaner, and a clean LINT FREE rag. MAKE SURE THE CLEANER YOU BUY IS SAFE FOR USE ON PLASTIC. I prefer Radio Shack TV contact cleaner even though it costs Ten bucks a can.

1. Turn the assembly upside down on a clean surface.
2. Unplug the ribbon cable.
3. Mark the location of the 3 cross brackets
4. Straighten the tabs and remove the brackets.
5. Remove the screws and take out the circuit board.
6. Cut the glue dots at the ends of the strips. (not all organs have these dots) BE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT INTO THE CIRCUIT BOARD. Slide your paperclip tool under the rubber contact strips next to the thru tabs and pop them out. DO ONE STRIP AT A TIME.
7. Spray contact cleaner on the rag and rub the contact areas on the board. Clean the black contact areas on the rubber strip in the same manner. Do not spray cleaner directly on the rubber strip as some cleaners cause swelling. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE CENTER CONTACT AND RUB IT REAL GOOD.
8. Place the strip back in position and use the pokey end of your paperclip tool to push each retainer tab back in its hole.
9. Repeat on the balance of the contact strips.
10. CHECK THE ENDS OF THE CONTACT STRIPS WHERE THEY JOIN TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO LAPS. THEY HAVE TO LAY PERFECTLY FLAT. You may have to trim glue dots away with the razor blade to assure that this happens. READ THIS LAST CAUTION AGAIN IF THE ENDS ARE NOT LAYING FLAT YOU WILL HAVE A DEAD NOTE. This caution comes from experience!! !!!!!!!!!!! !!!!

PUT EVERYTHING BACK TOGETHER IN REVERSE ORDER

Don't get sick if you have a dead note or 2 after doing this. A few taps will usually clear them. Worst case is that you will have to take it apart again and redo the process. See # 10 above!!!!!!!!!! !!!

I don't recommend anybody attempt this. However, if you do, good luck.  
BASS NOTE FOOTBOARD

If you have dead or scratchy bass notes, on most organs, get it up in the air and spray the heck out of the contacts while somebody works the pedals up and down. You don't have to take anything apart. WIPE UP YOUR MESS.

If you use this advice please let me know how it worked for you.  
This is a living document. Suggestions are welcome.

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